

October 26, 1982

MEMO

To: Tom Wilson, R.P.S.
Director, Environmental Health
Services

From: Stan Reedy, M.D., M.P.H. *SR*
Health Officer

Re: Storm Water Retention Pond

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



494456

You and I have discussed ground water contamination episodes, risk factors, and possible ways of protecting ground water. Contamination in the industrial park area of Elkhart has occurred in the past. This note is written to share my concern about the storm water retention pond on the Accra-Pac property where the recent disaster drill was held.

The pond probably serves its storm water function quite well. My concern is that it appears to offer direct access of spilled materials into the ground. This could happen because they pump water out of a truck bay onto the nearby gravel driveway, from where water runs to a collecting drain and thence to the pond. If materials in any amount spill in the truck bay they may easily be pumped out to the driveway and thus to the pond, where there could be leisurely diffusion into the ground. At another spot nearby, hot and somewhat smelly water was also being discharged onto a driveway. This may have been from a cooling process, I could not tell.

To summarize, it would appear that an otherwise well-functioning system may inadvertently channel toxic or hazardous materials directly into the ground. A more technical review of the situation there would probably be in order.

SR/jol

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATISTICS DIVISION
RECORDS SECTION